

San Diego DX Club Bulletin



July 2013

Our Summer Bash is Sunday, August 11th at K6NA's QTH
14250 Calle de Vista, Valley Center, CA 92082

Festivities Begin at 1200 (1900Z)

The San Diego DX Club (SDDXC) is among the best known and most highly respected DX clubs in the United States. Since it's founding in 1946, SDDXC members have been on both sides of the pile-ups with DXpeditions and a fair share have achieved "Top of the Honor Roll" status. If you're interested in chasing DX, contesting, exchanging stories or just rubbing elbows with fellow "Big Guns" or "Little Pistols", you'll feel right at home at one of our club meetings. Join us at our next meeting. Visitors are particularly welcome!

For real time DX spotting and lively conversation on a variety of subjects, join us on 144.415 MHz.

PROGRAM:

Art Goddard, W6XD will speak on the public benefit of Amateur Radio

MEETING NOTICE:

**JOIN US AT THE SIZZLER , NO CHANGE THIS MONTH
AERO DRIVE & MURPHY CANYON RD**

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2013

SOCIAL HOUR, 5:00 P.M. DINNER, 5:30 P.M.

MEETING, 6:30 P.M

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A Word from the Prez . . .

Dan Severance, N6ERD

Greetings DXers!

My name is Dan Severance, N6ERD the famed 6 Meter Vertical DXer and I am the new President of the San Diego DX Club. I'd like to start by thanking John, K6AM for his past year of service as President and his many years of service to the club. His humor and experience make him a tough act to follow.

This month our new VP Wild Bill, WB6BFG will be master of ceremonies for the meeting as I will be attending a conference in Vermont. Wild Bill as VP will also be program chairman so give him a hand and volunteer a program if you have some interesting DX related topics that you could present. We will be meeting at the Sizzler this month and if they do finally start the renovation work shortly after our meeting we may not have to meet at an alternate site for any upcoming meetings.

Interesting band conditions this last weekend – 20 meters was pretty open most of the night on the east coast – I ran in a small DX contest and my busiest time was around 1 AM on 20 Meters to EU and South America with a VK3 wandering in via long path. It's nice to see the bands picking up, although earlier in the day things had been a bit sketchy. I had spent most of my time on 15M prior to that – no time on 10M but I'm not sure if that was due to propagation or too few participants.

I started contesting by not contesting, but just looking for DX contests and finding DX I was after by tuning or spotting networks and working them, but never sending in a contest log. One of the best times to find DX (on non-WARC bands) is DX contests as many are on the air, and some rare places are activated specifically for the contest. All you have to do is give them the information they need for their contest and you are both happy! I worked 55 DX entities and 6 continents in 19 hours. Shortly after the contest I worked the Philippines on phone and he was LOUD into CT.

I'm looking forward to an interesting year for DX, and the San Diego DX Club.

Finally, the Sizzler remodel job has been delayed yet again! So pay attention.

THIS MONTH'S MEETING WILL BE AT THE SIZZLER.

73, Dan, N6ERD

Vice President's Report

Wild Bill, WB6BFG



Greetings to all!

I would like to thank everyone for the honor of being selected to be Vice President of the San Diego DX Club! I never really figured that I'd see the day but I hope that we have a fun year ahead. I also wish to thank those that have served before me! John, you did a heck of a job as president. Les, NN6K, for all your time on the board. Gayle, K6GO, for being *past president* for the last couple years. And to those that are choosing to continue their positions in the club: Ellen, N6UWW treasurer/secretary. Ed, AI6O, and Bob, N6OX and to Ron, N0RR, our bulletin editor and webmaster Arnie, W7BIA. It's the commitment of your time and efforts that keeps this club alive! Here's a big welcome to John, NA6L who is now on the board of directors.

Once again our meeting place is safe and sound for the July meeting. I talked to the manager at Sizzler last week and he told me that construction is being done in the meeting room only when it is not booked. This month's presenter will be Art Goddard, W6XD former Southwest Division Director of the ARRL. He will talk about the public benefit of the Amateur Radio Service. I've talked with Art over the last couple of weeks and he feels that the presentation will be well received by the SDDXC. No meeting in August (the Summer Bash takes its place) and in September our speaker will be our very own Jim McCook, W6YA. He has put together a presentation on working the original DXCC countries, should be great! If anyone has any ideas of what they would like to see for a presentation just let me know.

Are you ready for some fun in the Valley Center sun? The annual Summer Bash is right around the corner (mark your calendars for Sunday, August 11th) and we look forward to seeing everyone there! We will have a discussion at the meeting about it and I am looking forward to positive input.

73 & 88's to the pretty ones ~

Wild Bill, WB6BFG



This is to certify that:

San Diego DX Club

contributed to the 2013 Spectrum Defense Fund supporting
ARRL's vigilance in meeting challenges to defend the
Amateur Radio spectrum.

ARRL The national association for
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Kay Craigie
Kay C. Craigie, N3KN
ARRL President



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June 4, 2013

San Diego DX Club
c/o Ellen Utschig
2104 Poplar Road
Oceanside, CA 92058

Dear Friends:

Thank you for your contribution of \$250 to support ARRL's Spectrum Defense Fund.

Through this gift, you are providing critical resources to help ARRL staff and volunteers maintain our vigilance to protect radio amateurs' access to the radio spectrum. The explosive growth in demand for spectrum to support commercial broadband services is generating tremendous pressure on incumbent services, including Amateur Radio.

Your trust in the ARRL to keep a watchful eye on behalf of Amateur Radio – in official Washington and elsewhere – is greatly appreciated. Please be assured that we are always alert and proactive in our commitment to detect and respond to any threat to our allocations.

Again, many thanks for giving to the Spectrum Defense Fund. With your support, we can look forward to the challenges ahead with confidence and conviction.

Sincerely,

Lauren Clarke
Lauren B. Clarke, KB1YDD
Individual Giving Manager

Thank you all for this generous gift - it will be put to good use

ARRL is an IRS-designated 501(c)(3) organization holding federal tax identification # 06-6000004. Accordingly, your contribution may be tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. No goods or services have been provided for this contribution.

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Treasurers

Report

Ellen, N6UWW



President John Barcroft, K6AM, opened the June 26th meeting at Sizzler and welcomed another packed house. Guests were introduced: KG6IYN Bruce.

A ceremonial passing of the gavel entrusted the Club to the new officers (all ran unopposed so no election was necessary).

Treasurer's Report was given by WB6BFG Wild Bill in the absence of the Secretary/Treasurer N6UWW Ellen. It was recommended that we return to publishing the detailed accounting of the Club funds in the Bulletin each month rather than just the balance.

A correction to the published meeting minutes was made (K6GO Gayle Olson's call was erroneously posted as KK6GO). The summer bash will be held August 11th at the home of K6NA Glenn.

Top 10 on 6 meters & Top 10 on 160 meters were read.

K6AM John was thanked by the club for his service to the Club and N6ERD Dan took the helm. A roundtable ensued.

Treasurer's Report

87 members

Statement Balance as of 6/28/2013: \$6359.01

Deposits: \$30.00 dues

Debits:

\$31.44 John Barcroft reimbursement for DX'er of the Year Plaque

\$300.00 Hays Companies liability insurance

Ellen, N6UWW

Editor's Ramblings

Ron, N0RR

Thanks to the members who provided input this month; John K6AM, Rob WA3IHV, John NA6L, Rick K0XB, Jim W6YA, Jim W6YI and Jim K6ZH.

If you have been tuning the bands the past month, it's obvious that we are in the midst of the summer DX doldrums. Although conditions have been reasonable with the SFI consistently above 100, DX and DXpeditions have been sparse. The good news is that the summer solstice is behind us and we are heading toward fall propagation conditions. The bad news is that the rate of change is slowest around the solstices. Let's hope that in August, when Europe goes on holiday, some DXers will travel to more exotic locations than the French Riviera.

Keep the faith and do not let the lack of daily DX deter you from tuning the bands. FO/UT6UD showed up from both the Marquesas and Austral Islands this month and there is sporadic activity from ZS8Z and 6O0LA. T6T was worked by several members on Sunday, July 21.

Read on and enjoy the stories and pictures from and about our members. Looking forward to seeing everyone at the Summer Bash next month.

Ron, N0RR

SDDXC TOP 10

By John, K6AM

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 6 METERS

7/13	7/12	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	1.	N6CW	27	101	101	102	-
2.	2.	N7CW	21	69	69	80	+3
3.	4.	K6ZH	14	22	22	25	+1
4.	5.	NA6L	14	21	21	23	+5
5.	6.	W6YI	9	8	8	12	-
6.	8	N6VS	12	9	9	11	+1
7.	7.	WA6MHZ		10	10	10	-
8.	9.	WB6BFG	8	9	9	10	+1
9.	10.	K6AM		2	2	7	+1
10.	-	AI6O	5	6	6	6	NEW

TOTAL COUNTRIES WORKED ON 160 METERS

7/13	7/12	CALL	ZNS	C-D	CFM	WKD	CHG
1.	5.	K6XT	35	211	213	213	+49
2.	-	K6NA	35	?	?	205	NEW
3.	2.	W5BN		?	192	200	-
4.	3.	W6YI	34	196	196	199	+7
5.	4.	N7CW	35	145	145	176	+11
6.	6.	W6YA	33	?	?	170	+7
7.	7.	K6AM		131	132	137	+1
9.	8.	K0XB	25	79	80	83	+5
8.	10.	AD6ZJ	19	48	49	52	+4
10.	9.	N6KI		3	3	49	-

The standings on 6 stay pretty steady with only a few new ones being worked. Lately, 6 has been open almost every day to somewhere, although unfortunately mostly for the domestic grid square set. The east coast is working Europe, but we are only working the east coast and the occasional Caribbean. Meanwhile, there were several nice jumps on 160. Both Art, K6XT and Glenn, K6NA come out of hiding with very impressive totals that catapult them to the top of the list. Most everyone else seems to be having some luck on 160 as well. Once again, we salute Rick, N6ND (SK) who goes into the Top Ten Hall of Fame with 23 on 6 and the top score of 210 on 160.

Both these bands are now being reported together since they both represent the ultimate challenge for the DX'er. Each takes the patience of a saint to wait out the ever-so-rare opening that may only last 5 minutes and be missed if someone in the right spot is not transmitting at just the right time. Our hats off to the top 10 winners in these categories.

Each month, we will publish top ten lists for one of the lesser recognized but hard won categories. Coming up next, RTTY, phone, and CW. Please send me your totals for each band throughout the year and you will be listed in coming months. Use the convenient form at <http://www.sddxc.org> or bring 'em to the meeting.

Contest Results

In the IARU contest W6YI scored 3,276,018 as a practice for WRTC next year. K6AM and N6AN operated full M/2 (Checklog) testing some things out for next year. Zones in the reported score are really DXCC, and the score is accurate using WRTC scoring.



How's DX?

This page consists of historical data so members can share information or brag about their accomplishments. For real time info, monitor the club 2m spotting frequency, 144.415 MHz. For future DX info subscribe to the ARRL weekly DX bulletin and/or W3UR's newsletter.

DX worked by SDDXC members during the doldrums

Station	Band	Date	Time	By	Station	Band	Date	Time	By
4Z5AD	15 CW	4-Jul	1352	WB6BFG					
4Z5KO	20 RTTY	3-Jul	0345	WB6BFG					
8R1AK	20 SSB	25-Jun	0638	WB6BFG					
9A283KS	20 SSB	2-Jul	0449	WB6BFG					
9V1XX	17 CW	26-Jun	1432	WB6BFG					
BA3GC	20CW	19-Jun	1343	W6YA	Inner Mongolia-Rare				
BD3GT	40 CW	27-Jun	1331	W6YA	Inner Mongolia-Rare				
EL2DT	15 SSB	4-Jul	1444	W6YA					
ER/KL1A	20 SSB	2-Jul	0031	WB6BFG					
ER/KL1A	20 CW	2-Jul	0123	WB6BFG					
ES1TU	20 CW	2-Jul	0355	WB6BFG					
FO/UT6UD	40 CW	17-Jul	1115	N0RR	Austral Islands OC-050				
FO/UT6UD	17 RTTY	18-Jul	0205	W6YA					
OJ0V	20 CW	4-Jul	0421	W6YA					
SV5DKL	20 CW	2-Jul	0347	WB6BFG					
V31IV	6 CW	26-Jun	0000	WB6BFG					
VU2YVK	20 SSB	9-Jul	1357	W6YA					
YS1/NP3J	80 CW	16-Jul	1119	N0RR					

QSLs Received Recently—

Station	Via
3B9DX	EA5GL
5W1SA	JA1DXA
P29NO	EA5GL
PT0S	HA7RY
T2GM	GM4FDM
VK9NT	VK2CA
VU2JAR	Direct
ZK3N	DL2AWG
FJ/N5WR	Direct
YJ0PO	K2PO



Has a 21-day growing season, but not necessarily consecutive days

A QUICK VISIT TO ARRL HQ – Jim Price, K6ZH (and Joan N6KIM)

We had the occasion to be on the East Coast in the middle of May this year. We were headed for a huge antiques flea market / swap meet in Brimfield, MA when we just “happened” to go through Hartford, CT, and the car I was driving just “happened” to pull off the interstate in Newington. Destination: 225 Main Street, the Headquarters of our ARRL!

Not sure of our schedule, I had sent an e-mail to Dave, K1ZZ, only the day before our arrival. As we walked in the office the first thing we saw was a sign: “ARRL Welcomes You Jim K6ZH.” A nice touch! And Dave was able to cordially chat with us for a few minutes, despite leaving that day for Dayton.

Another Dave, WA1OUI, a local volunteer, took us for a tour of the ARRL HQ offices – kind of like any other office space, except that the work going on was very familiar. And, of course, we stopped at the QSL bureau room – many cards, lots of ‘pookas,’ and 1 full-time employee! We also toured the RF shielded room where detailed testing is done on all new equipment. The League also has a nice collection of antique ham radio gear as well as an AM station (Johnson Xmtr, National Rcvr) set up and ready to operate.

Then on the W1AW station, complete with 4 separate operating “studios” (their term), and a decent antenna farm. Also in the building is the equipment they use for the broadcasts of ARRL bulletins and all the other info we’ve come to know and expect over the years.

Our tour time was brief, and there was no time for me to operate. But one of the people about to operate was Paul, PA0GMW who I remembered as my first, and one of very few, PA QSOs on 80 meters!

As I was leaving I told Dave Sumner that the last time I had seen him and had been to the League HQ was when he and I went to lunch in a small sports car. He said, oh my, that had to be in the late 1970s! Lots of water under the ham radio bridge since then for sure. Tnx, ARRL, for a nice visit.



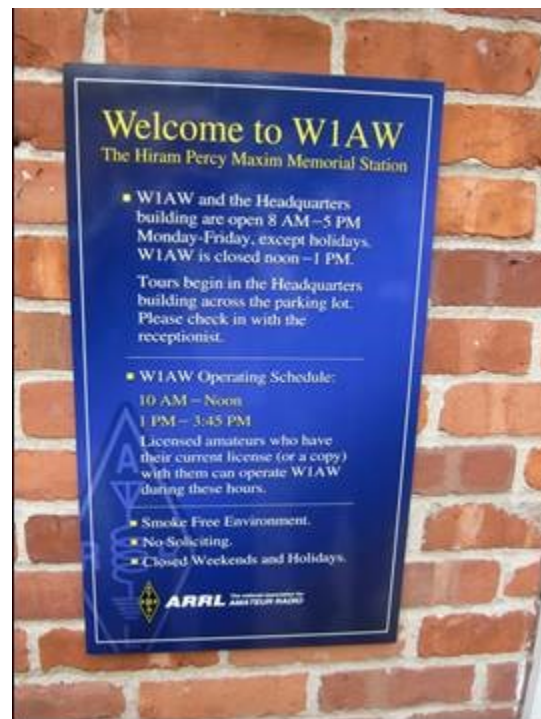
ARRL HQ, 225 Main Street, Newington, CT 06111 – an address familiar to us all. That building houses W1AW; the admin. Building off to the left of this photo



This was a nice touch when Joan and I first entered ARRL HQ



Joan and I had a chance to chat with Dave Sumner, K1ZZ, who has been the Exec Director (now CEO) of ARRL since 1982!



Bring your license and get on the air!



One of the four operating 'studios' at W1AW



Part of the W1AW antenna farm

LoTW Quick Start Guide

In the past the FCC required maintenance of a log of all QSOs for one year. This requirement has been dropped, yet many hams continue to log their activity. This gives them a record for awards and other personal information such as band conditions, signal reports, etc. Today, most hams use computer logging.

In 2003 the ARRL rolled out Logbook of the World (LoTW). This online system allows hams to claim and verify QSOs with others to qualify for awards such as DXCC and WAS. It also provides an additional online electronic backup of your log. (You do of course regularly backup your log, don't you?) LoTW has several layers of security utilizing digital certificates minimizing the chance of fraudulent claims. The database is free to licensed hams, although they charge a modest fee to claim award credit. As of early 2013, approximately 500 million QSOs have been recorded by more than 57,000 people.

Let's get started by registering. Have your current FCC license available and a method to record four passwords. If you lose or forget your passwords, you will have to start over. Additionally, these passwords are case sensitive.

Go to the LoTW webpage (www.arrl.org/lotw). Download and run the latest version of "TrustedQSL." There are separate Windows and MAC versions, but we'll deal with the Windows version here. The Mac version is similar. This will install two programs: TQSLCert and TQSL.

Run TQSLCert. Answer YES to request digital certificate. Follow the subsequent instructions. You'll be prompted to enter a password (call this PW1) to request a certificate. Use the callsign and address on your license for this first, primary certificate. If you have used other callsigns or portable identifiers, you will set up separate certificates for each of them later. But you need to get your primary certificate set up first. Don't forget to record this password. When prompted to digitally sign the certificate request, chose "unsigned." You'll be prompted to save the certificate request file (labeled as a .tq5 file), then send it to the LoTW team at the ARRL as either a) an email with attachment, or b) uploaded from the LoTW webpage.

The ARRL will send a postcard to your address on-file with the FCC with a second password (PW2). With this postcard in hand, sign onto the LoTW website and follow the link in the yellow box. You'll go to a page to enter PW2. You'll receive an email containing a username (usually your callsign), a third password (PW3), and an attachment with your digital certificate (a .tq6 file). Double click on the .tq6 file and it will be imported into TQSL CERT. No one can have too many passwords, so if you want to save your digital certificate onto a storage medium, a fourth password may be used.

The hard part is over! You're now ready to upload your log data to LoTW.

Different logging programs have more or less automated the uploading process, so at this point you should review the documentation for your specific logging program to see how it handles uploads to LoTW. To be thorough, we will describe the steps required for a logging program which does not automate the process at all. So you may or may not need to go through all these steps, depending on your logging program.

Using your logging program, export and save the QSOs to be uploaded in either the ADIF (amateur data interchange format) or Cabrillo formats.

Run the program TQSL. The first time you upload data, you will need to define your station location in TQSL using "Station/Add Location." Once that's done, select "FILE/Sign and Upload ADIF or Cabrillo File." It will ask you select the ADIF or Cabrillo file with your data, and then it will ask you for PW1. (Get this right - use PW1, not PW2, PW3 or PW4). At that point, it will encode and upload the file to the LoTW database.

You can now log into the LoTW User Website (www.arrl.org/lotwuser) utilizing your username and PW3. Most of the time, it handles data very quickly, so your data may already be there. At the end of major contests, it gets hammered, but most of the time it's very fast. After you sign in, you can review a summary of your data at the top of the page. Clicking on "Your Account/Your Activity" you can check your upload for errors or QSLs. The "Your QSLs/Most Recent QSLs" links take you to a listing of matched QSOs.

Applying for award credit using LoTW, such as DXCC or WAS is beyond the scope of this write-up. But once you are comfortable with using LoTW, you should be able to go ahead and set up the award accounts you want. LoTW can speed up the award process by months, maybe years. We encourage you to become a LoTW user.

73 and GUD DX,

Rob WA3IHV, John NA6L and Rick KØXB



Not a good place to be during a
Tsunami

Still waiting to become DXCC
entity #341

